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# Spy case opens can of squirms

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JERUSALEM—Members of Israel's intelligence community like to say that when it comes to security matters, relations between allies like Israel and the United States are like an open marriage. The unwritten rule is that as long as you don't get caught, a bit of spying on each other isn't considered an infidelity.

The Washington case of Jonathan Pollard, a former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst who pleaded guilty last Wednesday to charges of spying for Israel, is severely testing that rule.

Much to the embarrassment of officials here, details are emerging of Israeli espionage activities in the U.S. that were far broader than the limited "rogue" operation that Israel says the Pollard affair represented.

And the case has stirred unprecedented concern in the U.S. about the degree to which Israel has been able to obtain sensitive information on America's secret weapons, policy deliberations and advanced technology.

Furthermore, FBI Director William Webster has publicly accused Israel of partial and disappointing cooperation not only in the Pollard affair, but in other alleged Israeli espionage incidents in the U.S. Webster has said more Israeli and American citizens will be questioned in the ongoing investigation.

Amid the stony silence that officials here have maintained, there seems to be a grudging recognition in some quarters that Israel may have gone too far this time.

"Israel's special relationship with the United States demands special patterns of behavior," Israeli philosopher David Hartman said. "Americans like fair play and reliability. They don't like deceit."

There is a sense here, too, that Israel's credibility in the Pollard affair has been undermined by the fact that no Israeli has been prosecuted since the scandal surfaced last November, some analysts say. At that time, two Israeli diplomats in Washington fled

home, and Prime Minister Shimon Peres apologized to the U.S. for what he called an isolated incident of unauthorized espionage. After dismissing Rafi Eitan, a former chief of operations for Mossad secret service and head of the rogue intelligence unit in the Defense Ministry that handled Pollard, Peres declared the spy affair was of "limited and passing importance" to Israeli-U.S. relations.

Four Israelis were named as unindicted co-conspirators in the case. And although Eitan's intelligence unit was disbanded, he since has been named chairman of Israel Chemicals, one of the largest state-owned enterprises.

Israel's credibility suffered further last week when the nation's internal Shin Bet security service was accused of murdering two captured Palestinian terrorists in 1984 and then covering up the affair. Peres quashed a police inquiry into the charges by replacing his attorney general.

Several Israeli commentators have questioned whether Peres is telling the truth to Americans about Pollard.

"Being faithful to the cause and to the truth is what kept us here in the darkest hours. Many times we proved superior to our enemies only because we would admit our mistakes and cover-ups," wrote the Jerusalem Post's Middle East editor, Yehuda Litani.

Israel's diplomatic damage controllers have broken down the crisis into its short-term and long-term impact. The short term looks grim, they concede, as the U.S. Justice Department relentlessly pursues the Pollard affair and all its ramifications.

At the same time, many Israelis still feel confident that the Pollard affair will not have any lasting impact on Israel-American ties. Too much has been invested strategically and politically by both sides, the thinking goes, to allow a spying incident to pry apart the relationship.

"It can only matter if the United States wants to take it further," said Ze'ev Chafets, an American-born political author and former government official.

President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz have made it clear they are not interested in allowing the spy affair to cloud the larger picture of U.S. — Israeli relations.

Indeed, in the seven months since Pollard's arrest, Jerusalem and Washington have signed agreements that secured Israel's participation in Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative and provided for the construction of a Voice of America transmitter in Israel for broadcasts to the Soviet Union. Only last month, U.S. Atty. Gen. Edwin Meese visited Israel to deepen the already extensive mutual cooperation in the fight against international terrorism.

Other Israelis have taken a realistic approach to the affair, noting that spying, even between friends, is common practice.

"It was always assumed by sophisticated Americans that Israel gathers intelligence in the United States, just as it is assumed by sophisticated Israelis that the Americans gather intelligence in Israel," says Chafets.

"An incident like this [Pollard] doesn't lead to divorce or separation. Believe me, at the end of this fight, everyone will kiss and make up because there is no choice."